

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION**

HEADWATER RESEARCH LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO., LTD. and
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS AMERICA,
INC.,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 2:23-cv-00641-JRG-RSP

ORDER REGARDING E-DISCOVERY

The Court ORDERS as follows:

1. This order supplements all other discovery rules and orders. It streamlines Electronically Stored Information (“ESI”) production to promote a “just, speedy, and inexpensive determination” of this action, as required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 1.
2. A party’s¹ meaningful compliance with this Order and efforts to promote efficiency and reduce costs will be considered in cost-shifting determinations.
3. This Order may be modified in the Court’s discretion or by agreement of the parties. If the parties cannot resolve their disagreements regarding any modifications, the parties shall submit their competing proposals and a summary of their dispute.
4. Absent a showing of good cause, general ESI production requests under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 34 and 45, or compliance with a mandatory disclosure requirement of this Court, shall not include metadata. However, to the extent such metadata is applicable to an individual item and is already within the producing Party’s possession, custody, or

¹ “Party” or “party” as used in this ESI Order refers to each side. For avoidance of doubt, Headwater Research LLC is a party, and Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. and Samsung Electronics America, Inc. are collectively a party.

control, the following fields shall generally be included in the production if such fields exist:

- A. Title;
 - B. Filename;
 - C. Creation date and time;
 - D. Modification date and time;
 - E. Author;
 - F. Subject line;
 - G. Distribution list (*e.g.*, “To,” “Cc,” and “Bcc” fields);
 - H. Date and time sent;
 - I. Date and time received.
 - J. Beginning Document Number;
 - K. Ending Document Number;
 - L. BegAttach (the Beginning Document Number of the parent document);
 - M. EndAttach (the Ending Document Number of the last attachment);
 - N. FileExt (the extension of the filename, *e.g.*, “DOC” for an MS Word document);
 - O. Filepath (for loose electronic files this should be the filepath to the document location in the original environment. However, for emails this should be the internal folderpath where the email was stored, *e.g.*, Doe, Jane.pst\inbox);
5. Absent agreement of the parties or further order of this Court, the following parameters shall apply to ESI production:
- A. **General Document Image Format.** Each electronic document shall be produced in single-page Tagged Image File Format (“TIFF”) format. Each electronic

document shall be single page and named with a unique production number followed by the appropriate file extension. If a document contains attachments (e.g., an attachment to an email), such attachments shall be separately produced as electronic documents. Load files shall be provided to indicate the location of produced electronic documents, identify any attachments to electronic documents through unitization information, and identify any metadata of produced electronic documents.

- B. **Email Threading:** Where multiple email messages are part of a single “thread,” a Party is only required to produce the most inclusive message for which no claim of privilege is made, and need not produce earlier, less inclusive email messages that are fully contained, including attachments, within the most inclusive email message for which no claim of privilege is made. For the avoidance of doubt, if the later message contains different text (such as where the later message adds in-line comments to the body of the earlier message), or does not include an attachment that was part of the earlier message, the earlier message must be produced.
- C. **Text-Searchable Documents.** No party has an obligation to make its production text-searchable; however, if a party’s documents already exist in any text-searchable format independent of this litigation, or are converted to text-searchable format for use in this litigation, including for use by the producing party’s counsel, then such documents shall be produced in the same text-searchable format at no cost to the receiving party.
- D. **Footer.** Each page of any document produced in electronic image format shall

contain a footer with a sequentially ascending production number.

- E. **Native Files.** A party that receives a document produced in an image format (e.g., TIFF) may make a reasonable request to receive the document in its native format, and upon receipt of such a request, the producing party shall produce the document in its native format. The parties agree that spreadsheets of more than a single page shall be produced in native format. The parties further agree that Portable Document File (PDF), Microsoft Word, and PowerPoint documents, containing tracked changes, comments, animations, or notes that would otherwise not be visible in an image format, shall be produced in native format.
 - F. **No Backup Restoration Required.** Absent a showing of good cause, no party need restore any form of media upon which backup data is maintained in a party's normal or allowed processes, including but not limited to backup tapes, disks, SAN, and other forms of media, to comply with its discovery obligations in the present case.
 - G. **Voicemail and Mobile Devices.** Absent a showing of good cause, voicemails, PDAs, and mobile phones, including phone messages (e.g., SMS) need not be collected, preserved, and produced.
- 6. General ESI production requests under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 34 and 45, or compliance with a mandatory disclosure order of this Court, shall not include e-mail or other forms of electronic correspondence (collectively "e-mail"). To obtain e-mail, parties must propound specific e-mail production requests.
 - 7. E-mail production requests shall identify the custodian, search terms, and time frame. The parties shall cooperate to identify the proper custodians, proper search terms, and

proper time frame. Each requesting party shall limit its e-mail production requests to a total of up to and including five (5) custodians per producing party for all such requests. The parties agree, subject to a showing of good cause, to permit up to three (3) additional custodians per producing party. The parties may jointly agree to modify this limit without the Court's leave. The Court shall consider contested requests for additional or fewer custodians per producing party, upon showing a distinct need based on the size, complexity, and issues of this specific case.

8. Each requesting party shall limit its e-mail production requests to a total of up to and including ten (10) search terms per custodian per party. The parties may jointly agree to modify this limit without the Court's leave. The Court shall consider contested requests for additional or fewer search terms per custodian, upon showing a distinct need based on the size, complexity, and issues of this specific case. The search terms shall be narrowly tailored to particular issues. Indiscriminate terms, such as the producing company's name or its product name, are inappropriate unless combined with narrowing search criteria that sufficiently reduce the risk of overproduction. A conjunctive combination of multiple words or phrases (e.g., "computer" and "system") narrows the search and shall count as a single search term. A disjunctive combination of multiple words or phrases (e.g., "computer" or "system") broadens the search, and thus each word or phrase shall count as a separate search term unless they are variants of the same word. Use of narrowing search criteria (e.g., "and," "but not," "w/x") is encouraged to limit the production and shall be considered when determining whether to shift costs for disproportionate discovery. The parties agree that Korean-language translations of search terms may be identified by a requesting party, and that such translated search terms shall not count

towards the up to and including ten (10) search terms per custodian per party limit. For every e-mail in a producing party's possession, custody, or control for the identified custodians and search terms, the producing party shall either (1) produce the e-mail, or (2) document the withheld e-mail on a privilege log.

9. The parties further agree that, unless good cause is shown, the parties subject to this order need not search for or produce e-mail created after the filing of the complaint in the -422 matter.
10. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d), the inadvertent production of a privileged or work product protected ESI is not a waiver in the pending case or in any other federal or state proceeding.
11. The mere production of ESI in a litigation as part of a mass production shall not itself constitute a waiver for any purpose. Nothing in this protocol shall be interpreted to require disclosure of clearly irrelevant information or relevant information protected by the attorney-client privilege, work-product doctrine, or any other applicable privilege or immunity. The parties do not waive objections as to the production, discoverability, admissibility, or confidentiality of documents and ESI.
12. Except as expressly stated, nothing in this order affects the parties' discovery obligations under the Federal or Local Rules.

SIGNED this 1st day of May, 2025.


ROY S. PAYNE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE